


B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims below as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device that reduces the volatility of radioactive waste comprising:
 - (a) a receptacle having an open end said open end having a means for affixing a lid securely to said receptacle,
 - (b) ~~a~~an absorbent matrix comprising a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and an adsorbent material said ~~matrix insertable into~~receptacle able to receive said receptacle matrix and
 - (c) ~~A~~a lid affixed to said open end of said receptacle.
2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~wherein said further~~ comprising radioactive waste wherein said radioactive waste comprises a radioactive isotope selected from the group consisting of ^{125}I and ^{131}I .
3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~wherein said further~~ comprising radioactive waste wherein said radioactive waste comprises a radioactive isotope selected from the group consisting of ^{36}Cl , ^{33}P , ^{32}P , ^{35}S , ^{18}F , ^{15}O , ^{14}C , ^{13}N , ^{11}C , and ^3H .
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said receptacle is constructed of a plastic.
6. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent matrix is constructed of one or more natural materials, one or more synthetic materials or a combination of one or more natural and one or more synthetic materials.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~5~~6 wherein said natural material is selected from the group consisting of cotton, wool, paper, vermiculite, starch and diatomaceous earth.
8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~5~~6 wherein said synthetic material is selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, cellulose derivatives, dextrans, polyacrylamide and hydrophilic polymers.
9. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent matrix is constructed of unidirectional cotton fibers.
-  10. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said pH-stabilizing agent is prepared from one or more of the following compounds selected from the group consisting of TRIS, dibasic ~~phosphonate~~phosphate salts, tribasic ~~phosphate~~phosphonate-salts, sodium borate, the sodium salt of glycine, potassium acetate and potassium hydroxide.
11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said pH-stabilizing agent is dibasic ~~phosphate~~phosphonate-salts.
12. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said adsorbent material is starch or polymeric resins.
13. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said adsorbent material is activated charcoal.
14. (Original) A composition comprising an absorbent matrix, a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and adsorbent material.

15. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the absorbent matrix is constructed of unidirectional cotton fibers.
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the humectant is glycerol.
17. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the pH-stabilizing agent is composed of dibasic phosphate ~~phosphonate~~-salts.
18. (Original) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the adsorbent material is activated charcoal.
19. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the absorbent matrix contains about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of glycerol, about 1 to about 10 parts by weight of a composition ~~compositions~~ of disodium phosphate ~~phosphonate~~-salts and about 0.5 to about 10 parts by weight of activated charcoal.
20. (Withdrawn)
21. (Currently Amended) A kit for reducing the volatility of radioactive waste comprising:
- (a) at least one receptacle having an open end said open end having a means for affixing a at least one lid securely to ~~a~~ said at least one receptacle,
 - (b) at least one absorbent matrix comprising a humectant, a pH-stabilizing agent and an adsorbent material said at least one receptacle able to receive said absorbent matrix ~~that may be inserted into said receptacle and~~
 - (c) at least one lid affixed to said at least one receptacle.

Please withdraw claim 20 without prejudice.
Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.